

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5340

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

UNC REAR CP ZAMA JAPAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6246

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR KS US

SUBJ: UNC REAR

REF: A) SEOUL 5918, B. TOKYO 10275, C. TOKYO 10737 D. SEOUL 4801

1. AS REF A NOTES, ASSIGNMENT OF UK OFFICER TO UNC REAR FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS DEFERS PROBLEM OF MAINTAINING UN JAPAN SOFA, BUT WE WOULD HOPE TO WORK OUT MORE LASTING SOLUTION BEFORE THAT PERIOD ENDS. WE HAVE DISCUSSED INFORMALLY WITH AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AUSTRALIAN OFFICER BEING ASSIGNED TO UNC REAR ON ROTATIONAL BASIS WITH UK OFFICER, AS SUGGESTED REFS B AND C. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HAS STRESSED THAT IT HAS NO IDEA WHAT GOA POSITION MIGHT BE CONCERNING ASSIGNING AN AUSTRALIAN OFFICER IN JAPAN, BUT PERSONAL RESPONSE HAS BEEN GENERALLY NEGATIVE, LARGELY ON GROUND THAT AUSTRALIANS HERE DO NOT BELIEVE JAPANESE HAVE MADE SUFFICIENTLY CONVINCING CASE FOR BEING UNABLE TO
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ACCEPT DUAL ACCREDITATION OF MILITARY ATTACHE IN TOKYO. AUSTRALIANS HERE ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT CANADIANS HAVE MORE MILITARY JUSTIFICATION FOR STATIONING AN OFFICER IN JAPAN THAN DO AUSTRALIANS, SINCE THEY ARE MAJOR BENEFICIARIES OF UN-JAPAN SOFA (AS NOTED REF D)

2. ON OTHER HAND, WE HAVE NOTED FAIRLY POSITIVE VIEWS OF

AUSTRALIANS IN TOKYO, AND HAVE NOW BEEN ADVISED BY UK EMBASSY HERE THAT THEIR EMBASSY IN CANBERRA HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SUPPORT AN APPROACH BY THE U.S. ON THIS ISSUE. WE HOPE THIS CURSE CAN BE FOLLOWED, AND IN MEANWHILE WE PLAN FULLER DISCUSSION WITH AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE, TO TRY TO ANSWER THEIR CONCERNS. AS WE UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM, JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S MAIN CONCERN IN THIS ISSUE IS TO AVOID SO FAR AS POSSIBLE ANY DISPUTE INVOLVING QUESTION OF JAPAN PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR DEFENSE OF KOREA, TO RESERVE POLITICAL CAPITAL UNTIL SUCH TIME AS IT IS REALLY NEEDED, AND FOR THIS REASON, GOJ WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO STRETCH ANY POINT TO ANSWER AN OPPOSITE CHALLENGE, IF THAT CHALLENGE CAN BE AVERTED ALTHOUGH. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENT THAT EMBASSY TOKYO CAN ADD, HOWEVER.

3. IN VIEW OF AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY'S VIEWS REGARDING STATIONING A CANADIAN OFFICER IN JAPAN, WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE TO AGAIN EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF CANADIAN PARTICIPATION, AS HEDGE AGAINST POSSIBILITY THAT CANBERRA MIGHT RAISE THIS ISSUE. ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION WOULD BE THE ASSIGNMENT OF UK, AUSTRALIAN AND CANADIAN OFFICERS IN ROTATION SO AS TO DISTRIBUTE THE BURDEN MORE EQUITABLY.
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